

(1) the findings of the study; and
 (2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

(e) APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 625, I was unavoidably detained, and had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING CONGRESSMAN BOBBY BRIGHT FOR HIS SERVICE TO SOUTH ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished service of my colleague, Congressman BOBBY BRIGHT, who represented the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District during the 111th Congress.

A native of Dale County in the Alabama Wiregrass region, BOBBY NEAL BRIGHT brought to Washington a determination to look after both the rural and urban areas of his sprawling southeast Alabama district, and he did so very well.

Born into a large family and raised on hard work, Congressman BRIGHT attended Enterprise State Junior College and later Auburn University where, in 1975, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. He later received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University and a Juris Doctor degree at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in Montgomery.

After graduating from college, BOBBY wore many hats as a teacher, financial advisor, corrections officer, law clerk, and later practiced law for 16 years.

He first entered public service in 1999, when he was elected mayor of Alabama's capital city, Montgomery. He was subsequently reelected twice, serving nine years in office.

Under his leadership, Montgomery experienced unprecedented job growth, including the construction of Hyundai America's car plant just south of town. During his tenure, he initiated a downtown and riverfront revitalization project which re-invented Montgomery's tourism industry, bringing attractions such as the Renaissance Hotel and Spa and The Montgomery Biscuits minor league baseball team.

Upon being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, Congressman BRIGHT leveraged his leadership skills for Alabama's River Region and the Wiregrass.

He quickly won a seat on the House Armed Services Committee in order to look after the district's largest employers, Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base and the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker.

Congressman BRIGHT also served on the Agriculture and Small Business committees

which enabled him to look after the other major pillars of the local economy, including Alabama's peanut and cotton farmers and the small businesses which dot the landscape from Deatsville to Dothan.

As this Congress draws to a close and Congressman BRIGHT prepares to return to Alabama, I wish him, his wife, Lynn, and their three children, Neal, Lisa and Katie, the very best of luck in their future endeavors.

SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, for years we have heard of the horrors of international sex trafficking of children. It is an abomination that young children around the world are forced into this degrading, humiliating life. No child should have their innocence stolen in this manner.

We're only just beginning to hear about the traffickers that prey on our own children, right here in America. The FBI's Innocence Lost Task Force calls domestic minor sex trafficking the "most overlooked and under-investigated form of child sexual abuse."

Why aren't we paying closer attention to this in America? According to the FBI, it's because too many people believe that child prostitution is a victimless crime. How could a young boy or girl being forced into this lifestyle be victimless?

These children are abused and exploited. The horror of what they've been through in their young lives is almost too much to bear. Children are not willing participants in this trauma. This kind of thinking is wrong. These children are victims. The men that buy young boys and girls for sex are guilty of exploitation and abuse.

These sex traffickers and their customers are the filth of humanity. As one Texas Ranger told me, "Judge, when you see one, get a rope."

Houston, Texas, is one of the main hubs for human trafficking in the United States. We have been dealing with this problem for a long time. However, in recent years the city has made tremendous strides towards addressing it.

In Houston, we have one of the 42 Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance groups in the country. Together with the FBI's Innocence Lost initiative, they have rescued over 140 domestic victims. Numerous traffickers have been prosecuted, several receiving life sentences.

Earlier this month, I met with the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance. Included in this group is Houston Constable Ron Hickman—a law enforcement leader in confronting the epidemic of trafficking in Texas. He and his officers told me that one of the biggest issues they face in combating trafficking is how to care for the victims.

More specifically, they told me that there is better care available to the international victims they rescue than there is for our own citizens. International victims are eligible to apply for a U-visa or a T-visa, which allows them to remain lawfully in the United States.

Immigrant service groups help them apply for free legal, medical, mental, housing and

educational services. Internationally trafficked children can receive care in a residential facility, or in a long-term foster home. Basically, we provide a wealth of care to internationally trafficked victims, as we should.

It is a great thing to have these services. We should be doing all we can to rescue all children from this scourge.

But consider the resources that are available to a victim of domestic trafficking in Houston. At the moment law enforcement agents come across victims of domestic trafficking, they are required to take them into custody. Once in custody, domestic minor victims can only gain access to services by being labeled as delinquents and charged with a class B misdemeanor of prostitution, obtaining a permanent criminal record.

That's right—to gain access to short term services, they have to be arrested first. And these short term services do not even begin to address the severe physical and psychological trauma that these girls have survived.

Without access to this specialized care, it has been shown that trafficking victims simply return to their traffickers and continue the cycle of abuse. They have nowhere else to go, so they go back to the only life they know.

What we need in Houston and throughout the nation is specialized, long term, residential treatment facilities to care for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Any legislation that addresses this issue must include this victim-centered component.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5575, introduced by my friends Congresswoman CAROLINE MALONEY and Congressman CHRIS SMITH, which pays close attention to the care and support of victims.

We have done a marvelous job caring for the victims that are trafficked across our border. We need to ensure that we are doing the same for our own children.

And that's just the way it is.

THANKING MS. LEA FOWLIE FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on September 30, 2010, we rise to thank Ms. Lea Fowlie for her 36 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Lea has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources, HIR, within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, CAO.

Lea began serving the House of Representatives on January 7, 1974, as a Junior Computer Terminal Operator in the Bill Status Office, where she responded to as many as 100 telephone inquiries a day about the status of legislation from both the American public and the House community. She was appointed Quality Control Coordinator and contacted House committees, the Senate Bill Clerk, and the White House daily to ensure the accuracy of the data.

Lea was selected in the late 1970s as one of the first Service Representatives to inform Congressional offices of emerging computer technologies in the House and was appointed